(b) The DTC has been incurring losses mainly due to low/concessional fares and rising costs of inputs. The steps being taken on a continuing basis are economies in maintenance, operations and administrations, plugging of leakages in revenue through improved and intensive checking and rationalisation of routes and fares.

Lack of passenger amenities in Karnataka Express

1863. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the four coaches, to and from Visakhapatnam which are being hauled by Karnataka Express between New Delhi and Vijayawada, and vice versa, are old bogies without proper cushions, vestibule arrangement, clean drinking water thereby causing discomfort and inconvenience to passengers; and

(b) if so, what corrective measures are being taken by Government to provide timely catering on this train?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Adequate arrangements already exist for services of food and other beverages to the passengers of Karnataka Express through the Pantry car attached to the train.

Supply of clean drinking water in trains

1864. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that provision of clean drinking water through installation of Stainless Storage drums in all the compartments of fast moving mail, express and Superfast express trains with limited stops has been withdrawn/suspended causing a lot of inconvenience to passengers specially long-distance travellers, compelling them to drink water from over-head tanks of the compartments; and

(b) what steps are being taken by the Railway administration to ensure continuous supply of clean drinking water, throughout the journey, to long distance passengers on these trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Stainless steel containers have been fitted in air-conditioned coaches for provision of drinking water. A few cases where these containers were not fitted have come to notice.

(b) The following steps have been taken for supply of drinking water to passengers in trains:

(i) Stainless steel containers in air-conditioned coaches and jerry cans in other reserved coaches.

(ii) Provision of mobile watermen during summer season.

(iii) Augmentation of drinking water arrangements at stations to Supplement arrangements on trains through additional water trolleys and posting of additional watermen at stations during summer.

Appointment of medical specialists by Delhi University for its employees

1865. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University of Delhi have enlisted/appointed classified medical specialists like cardiologist, gastro-enterologist, Pathologist, Orthopaedician. Dentist, Eye Specialist, ENT specialists, Skin specialst, etc., for the employees of the University and its colleges; if so, what are the names, qualifications and addresses of those specialists;